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LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions of my Government, I am writing to you regarding the letter of Mr. A. Serreqi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania (S/1995/700) of 15 August 1995.

In his letter, Mr. Serreqi has advanced ill-intentioned allegations concerning the accommodation in Kosovo and Metohija of a small number of Serb refugees from Krajina who have found refuge in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia following Croatia's aggression against Krajina. This letter represents yet another striking example of persistent and gross interference of Albania in internal affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In doing so, Albania is revealing its true intentions and proves to be a constant threat to peace and stability in the region.

Instead of expressing compassion and understanding for the plight of the expelled Serb people from Krajina, Albania is taking advantage of this humanitarian tragedy to generate fear among the Albanian national minority in Kosovo and Metohija and provoke the spill-over of the conflict to the entire region.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is facing enormous problems in dealing with the overwhelming influx of refugees and providing for their basic needs. Up to date, more than 150,000 refugees have been registered in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The problem is even greater since Yugoslavia has already taken care of around 500,000 refugees from the war-torn areas.

Despite international humanitarian aid that is coming in, the major burden is being borne by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia itself. Already hard hit by the harshest sanctions ever imposed against one country, Yugoslavia's capacities are almost exhausted. Nevertheless, it is investing utmost efforts to provide adequate accommodation and meet other needs as efficiently as possible.

Accommodation for the refugees is provided throughout the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Mr. Serreqi should know that Kosovo and

Metohija is an integral part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It is the legitimate right of Yugoslavia to choose adequate means to cope with the urgent humanitarian problems it is faced with now. Kosovo and Metohija has to share the burden along with other parts of Yugoslavia in providing housing and care for the refugees. Only those who encourage and advocate separatist policy of the Albanian national minority in Kosovo and Metohija in order to achieve an ethnically pure region have reason to fear the settling of the refugees in this area, since they hope that, with the outside assistance, ethnically pure region would ensure conditions for secession of Kosovo and Metohija from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

According to the official data, only about 800 refugees have been dispatched to Kosovo and Metohija so far. The figure is negligible viewed against the estimated total number of more than 200,000 refugees to be admitted to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Consequently, the charges of the alleged "... ethnic cleansing against the Albanians ..." in Kosovo and Metohija and especially of "... its colonization with colonists gathered together from the territories of the former Yugoslavia ...", are not only senseless but utterly malicious and inhumane. Albania's declared concern for the members of the Albanian minority in Kosovo and Metohija is hypocritical, to say the least. Albania consistently failed to express any concern for the virtual exodus of the Serbs from Kosovo and Metohija which indeed triggered the change of demographic structure in the region. Furthermore, it never raised its voice against "ethnic cleansing" of the Serbs from Western Slavonia and Krajina as well as against the official Croatian statements that 99 per cent of the Serbs will leave Croatia.

In doing so, Albania is in the forefront of those who demonstrated total disregard for the human tragedy of enormous proportions of the Serb people from Krajina and is trying to unscrupulously politicize this tragedy to advance its own political agenda.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.